



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

April 20, 2009

Ms. Christine Koussis
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
Code EV22ES (VACAPES Range Complex EIS Project Manager)
6506 Hampton BLVD
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Re: Virginia Capes Range Complex Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Statement March 2009 CEQ # 20090073

Dear Ms. Koussis:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Range Complex Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS). This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7609, PL 91-604 12(a), 84 Stat.1709), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). While the FEIS addressed most of EPA's comments on the draft EIS, there remain a few environmental concerns and issues that have not been addressed.

As stated in our previous comments, the Chesapeake Bay is a valuable resource and there are many efforts to protect and restore the Bay. The EIS should explain how the proposed action relates to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement and any necessary mitigation.

Both the DEIS and FEIS refer to a Canadian study that analyzed the fate of expended material and the potential impact to the environment, and extend a comparison to the study area. There is no information provided comparing the two physical environments, which could support that the sediment characteristics are similar enough for the information to be applicable to the VACAPES area.

While we appreciate the fact that the Navy is implementing the Water Range Sustainability Environmental Program Assessment Policy, it would be beneficial to summarize the policy in the EIS.

The response to our comment regarding the effect of potential temperature changes caused by

the proposed actions on water quality, as well as climatic fluctuations and global warming, does not appear to be addressed in Section 6.3 as stated in the response to comments.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Karen DelGrosso at (215)814-2765 or Barbara Okorn at (215)814-3330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Okorn".

Barbara Okorn
Office of Environmental Programs

